MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2003

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Published Seven Times A Year From September-May.
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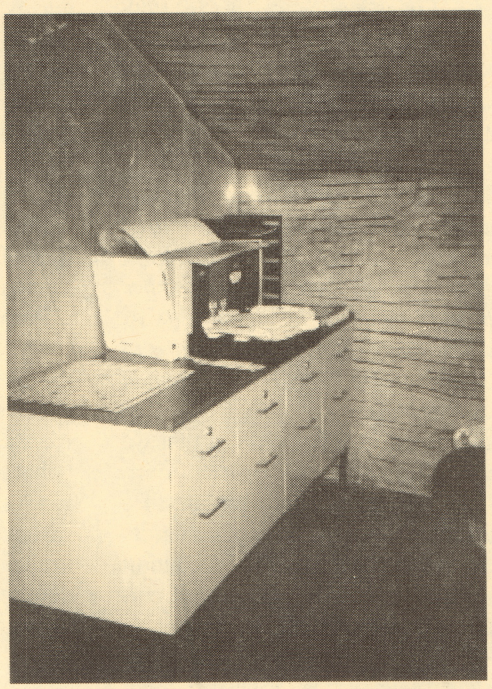
Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

Your Museum



The back of the second floor of MoMS, with its accordion lath now covered with Plexiglas, is now usable space. Photo: S. Wineberg

Our tree was surrounded by antique toys! Photo: S. Wineberg

We were a very busy place over the Holiday Season and we had streams of visitors who patronized our Museum Shop. Thank you one and all! We got very nice publicity from the *Ann Arbor News* and our visitors enjoyed our antique toys and dollhouses immensely. We had 34 visitors one Saturday and 10 people from Corktown in Detroit came by appointment. We can also report that one of the items on display, a **child's cutter** made by **Adolph Gustave Schmidt** ca. 1888, has been donated to the museum by **Amelita Ristine,** his granddaughter.

We have many people to thank for making it all possible. At the top of the list is President **Pauline Walters,** who coordinated the decorating team and donated a wreath for the front door. **Jay Snyder** obtained a tree and helped decorate it and also helped with the dollhouses. **Julie Goodridge** donated 300 feet of roping for the fence, stair railings and interior doors. **Edward** and **Marilyn Couture** helped hang the roping. **Patty Creal** brought holly from her yard to decorate windows and tables. **Tina Nawrocki** strung cranberries, made small wreaths, felt angels and felt mice and her husband **Jim** helped carry the dollhouses and other heavy items. **Karen O'Neal** loaned a family dollhouse for the exhibit and several toys for display and made punch for the Open Houses. **Ann DeFreytas, Sue Kosky** and **Judy Chrisman** arranged the exhibits. **Peggy Haines** supplied cookies, **Anne S. Benninghoff** donated a large

(Continued on page 7.)

Next Program

Sunday • March 16th
Ypsilanti Antique Fire Equipment Museum

Marcia McCrary, Curator of the **Ypsilanti Antique Fire Equipment Museum,** will speak there on the history of the Museum, 110 W. Cross Street.

THE HON. JULIE CREAL GOODRIDGE

The Mysteries Of The Washtenaw County System, Unraveled

The Hon. Judge Julie Creal Goodridge spoke to us in November on the Washtenaw County Court System. Photo: Susan Wineberg

*On Sunday, **November 17, 2002**, at the beautifully restored George P. Glazier Memorial Building constructed as the **Chelsea Savings Bank** in 1901 in the Beaux Arts style, over 40 people heard The Hon. Julie C. Goodridge explain how the court system operates in Washtenaw County. The Glazier Building now houses the **14A District Court**, and the lovely domed former banking room, with its beautifully decorated safe, served as our lecture hall.*

*Judge Goodridge was introduced by **Ralph Beebe,** WCHS Program Director and Vice President, who noted that she is a trial judge in the 15th district in Ann Arbor. A native of Ann Arbor and a graduate of Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, Goodridge obtained her undergraduate degree at Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio). She later attended the University of Michigan Law School where she obtained her law degree in 1988. She worked as a lobbyist for the food industry in Washington for two years and then was in private practice for ten years. She was appointed to the district court in 1998 and in 2000 was elected to a six-year term on the bench. She has served on the Ann Arbor City Council and on the boards of the YMCA and the WCHS. "Please rise…."*

*(Following the lecture, a reception was held at the nearby **Chelsea Centre Tourist Home**, a bed and breakfast run by **Donna White** at 120 South St. She opened her lovely 1887 Victorian home for all of us to admire and explore. Thanks also to **Greg** and **Ann De Freytas** who supplied the refreshments).*

Judge Goodridge pointed out that we were meeting in the 14A District Court, where Judge Richard Conlin presides. He is the third or fourth member of his family to serve on the bench and the second in his family to serve on the 14th District Court bench. His brother Patrick, who eventually became a circuit court judge, was one of the original judges in the 14th District Court. Their photographs are on the back wall.

"Before I start unraveling the mysteries of the court system, I would like to give you a little history of this building. It was built in 1901 by Frank Glazier who was from a prominent family in Chelsea. It was originally built to be the Chelsea Savings Bank. In 1907, The bank failed during the Panic of 1907 and later the Farmers and Merchants Bank moved in. The Chelsea State Bank, which later owned this building and is still in existence, donated this building to the 14th District Court in 1969. In 1988 the building underwent a substantial restoration. The great thing about this building is that it is beautiful to look at and the woodwork and the marble are remarkable. The bad thing about the building is that the acoustics are terrible. It is often difficult to hear because the sound is funneled up into the dome.

Ralph approached me to explain the court system, and to help him understand the different levels of justice between the circuit system and the district system, and why there is a Circuit Court in Cincinnati—'what is it and why should I care'? There is a lot of confusion because in the U.S. we have an adversarial court system, and in all proceedings we have a plaintiff and a defendant on opposite sides. They present their case to an impartial judge or jury. We have essentially two levels of courts in the US—the first level is the trial court and the second level is the appellate (appeals) court. Trial courts are the arenas where people or entities such as governments (like City of Ann Arbor, the Village of Chelsea, the County of Washtenaw or the State of Michigan) or companies (like Enron or General Motors), can take disputes for resolution. They are where crime is prosecuted and where trials take place. Appellate courts are places where people that are unhappy with the decision of the trial court can go for a review of the decision. The Appellate Court looks at the facts and determines if the trial judge made the right decision on the facts. Or they review the law that the trial judge applied. One of the current Supreme Court Justices for the State of Michigan, Cliff Taylor, once told me that the Appellate judge comes in and "kills all the survivors" (of the trial court).

14A District Court, Chelsea Michigan built 1901, as Chelsea Savings Bank. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

Sometimes that's how it feels. Most states and the federal system have two levels of appellate courts. You have all heard of the Court of Appeals. That's the first level of Appellate Court. The second level

WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT

SUPREME COURT

↓

COURT OF APPEALS

↓

WASHTENAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT
DIVISIONS

APPELLATE	DISTRICT	CIVIL/CRIMINAL	FAMILY
Administrative Appeals Internal Appeals	Small Claims Landlord Tenant General Civil Misdemeanors Criminal Traffic/Ordinance Violations	General Civil Negligence Felonies Domestic Violence	Divorce Cases Neglect/Abuse/Delinquency Custody/Support Estates/Guardianship Mental Health

↓

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Budget/Facilities
Case Assignment/Scheduling
Mediation/Alternate Dispute Resolution
Jury Management
Court Services
Probation Services

***Washtenaw County Trial Court Demonstration Project Executive Summary**
***Washtenaw County Trial Court Judicial Council Structure**
***Court Administration**
***Central Assignments Office and Mediation**

The 14 Judges of the Washtenaw Trial Court

Civil/Criminal Division	District Court Division	Family Division
The Honorable Archie C. Brown 6 year term expires January, 2007	The Honorable John Collins 6 year term expires January, 2009	The Honorable Archie C. Brown 6 year term expires January, 2007
The Honorable Timothy P. Connors 6 year term expires January, 2007	The Honorable Richard E. Conlin 6 year term expires January, 2009	The Honorable Timothy P. Connors 6 year term expires January, 2007
The Honorable Melinda Morris 6 year term expires January, 2007	The Honorable Julie Creal Goodridge 6 year term expires January, 2007	The Honorable Nancy C. Francis 6 year term expires January, 2009
The Honorable Donald E. Shelton 6 year term expires January, 2009	The Honorable Elizabeth P. Hines 6 year term expires January, 2004	The Honorable John N. Kirkendall 6 year term expires January, 2007
The Honorable David S. Swartz 6 year term expires January, 2009	The Honorable Ann Mattson 6 year term expires January, 2009	
	The Honorable J. Cedric Simpson 6 year term expires January, 2007	
	The Honorable Kirk W. Tabbey 6 year term expires January, 2005	

The Mission of the Washtenaw County Trial Court

To provide opportunities for people and organizations to obtain the peaceful resolution of public and private disputes in a fair, efficient, and timely manner.

The beautiful interior of the restored bank, now 14A District Court. Photo: S. Wineberg

is the Supreme Court. All states have a Supreme Court. They call it different things, but there is always a highest court in every state. Over this court, the U.S. Supreme Court is the final arbiter.

We have two court systems in the United States—the state court system and the federal court system. These courts have different jurisdictions, which means they handle different matters. Federal Courts have jurisdiction over questions involving *diversity*—matters involving federal law or the U.S. Constitution. What does 'diversity' mean? It is a phrase that refers to matters that arise between parties in different states and precludes prejudice towards the plaintiff in their own state. Other challenges such as civil rights claims, freedom of press claims, and disputes over anything regulated at the federal level (taxes, securities, environmental protection) get you into federal court.

The Federal System has trial courts and appellate courts just like the state systems. The trial courts on the Federal level are the U.S. District Courts. In Michigan we have a district court in the Eastern District and the Western District. The Eastern District courts sit primarily in Detroit, while the Western District sits in Grand Rapids. They kind of split the state in half, but it's a weird shape because the western half includes the Upper Peninsula and the top half of the Lower Peninsula as well as the western part of the state. There are also sub-seats, so Ann Arbor has a district court magistrate and a district judge that sits in Ann Arbor as part of the Eastern District of the federal court system. There are judges in Saginaw and Flint as well. There are also bankruptcy courts, immigration courts and tribal courts. All are part of the trial level of the Federal district court system.

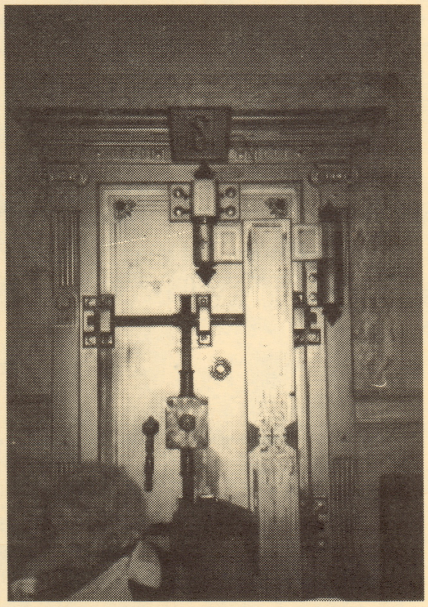
The appellate courts for the federal system are divided into circuits and we in Michigan are part of the Sixth Circuit, which sits in Cincinnati. It is called the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is essentially the State of California. The circuit courts are made up of several states and are numbered consecutively from east to west across the country. They serve the same function of review as the appeals courts at the state level. At the circuit court level for the court of appeals on both the state and federal levels, it's a huge bench. And they typically sit in groups of three judges who are randomly assigned, which is how the University of Michigan admissions cases (there are two) got different results at the trial level since they were separate cases in Detroit. They got different results at the Court of Appeals level in Cincinnati as well. Those cases are now pending the ultimate review by the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Occasionally you will see both the State Court of Appeals and the Circuit Court of Appeals sitting all together "*en banc*"—which happens very rarely.

The U.S. Supreme Court is the final step and you have to apply to them for *certiorari* which is essentially asking them to review your case. They only review 2% of the cases that request review and there are many. An important federal issue must be raised to be reviewed by the Court. Examples of things that are currently in the news are the Enron and K-Mart bankruptcy filings, the corporate fraud prosecutions we've been reading about in the papers, and the terrorist prosecutions that fall under our new anti-terrorism law, all of which involve a conflict under federal law.

In the State courts we have jurisdiction over essentially everything else. Examples of things that are state court matters are drunk driving, speeding tickets, murder, robbery, disputes over land, disputes over contracts—and states are given wide latitude in drafting their laws. For example, some states have a death penalty and others don't. This can often affect the decision on where to hold a trial, as is happening now with the sniper case from Washington D.C. States of course must comply with the U.S. Constitution, but beyond that it is pretty wide open.

We also have jurisdiction over things arising out of common law. Common law is the law of our state and essentially our country that is not written in statute books. In my office the walls are lined with Case Law books, which are opinions of the State Court of Appeals and the State Supreme Court and the Statutes of Michigan. The latter applies to Statutory Law and the Case Law is essentially the Common Law. It is a legal system we inherited from our English forefathers and foremothers. It represents the equitable way things are done. They often address contract issues, real estate transactions and disputes, and similar matters.

On the trial level (in the state arena) you have **district courts, circuit courts** and **probate courts.** On the Appellate level again you have the Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court. The **District Court** handles misdemeanor criminal offenses, which are offenses punishable by up to one year in jail. We hear traffic offenses, which sometimes make you feel like a criminal but are civil offenses. And we hear civil matters under $25,000. We



Restored safe in the former Chelsea Savings Bank. Photo: S. Wineberg

handle small claims matters, in which neither party is represented by an attorney (essentially the People's Court), and we can handle disputes up to $3750.00 (which is mandated by the state legislature). This is conditional upon no one having an attorney. If you are sued in small claims court, you have the option to have the case removed to district court where you can have an attorney represent you. We also hear felony criminal matters, which are more serious criminal matters, punishable by over one year in prison.

Chelsea Centre Guest House, 120 South St, hosted our refreshments in November. Photo: S. Wineberg

We handle those cases until we can determine there is probable cause to bind those cases over to the **Circuit Court,** which is the court that handles felony matters from that point forward. Circuit court also handles all civil disputes over $25,000 and civil matters where the parties are seeking 'declaratory' or 'injunctive' relief, where the plaintiff is asking the judge to order the other side to either do, or not do, something. They handle disputes over land, title and boundaries, divorces, child support and custody cases.

The **Probate Court** handles estates, mental health commitment, adoption matters, juvenile matters (delinquency or criminal activity by children under 17), and guardianship and conservatorship matters. The first court in Washtenaw County was Probate Court and the first session was held in 1827 on April 5th. The population of Washtenaw County at that time was 1,000 people. The first Probate Judge was **Bethuel Farrand.** This date is only three years after **Benjamin Woodruff** settled the area just up the road from Ypsilanti. Judge Kirkendall, who is our current Probate Judge, celebrated the **175th anniversary** of the first session of court this April 5th. The proceedings included a play re-enacting the first session performed by students from the Ardis School in Ypsilanti.

The question was asked why a Probate Court was first. It's likely there were two reasons. First, the citizens were concerned that their property be distributed in an orderly way upon their death, according to understood rules. The second reason is a little more obscure. Probate courts are descendants of the ecclesiastical courts of England and one of their purposes was to tax estates at someone's death for the King's coffers. It's very possible that the courts here used this as a means for securing revenue for the territorial council. Michigan didn't become a state for another ten years, and the courthouse for Washtenaw wasn't built for another seven years. It's likely that these early court sessions were held in the homes of prominent citizens. Probate Courts were legitimized by the State of Michigan when the Constitution of 1835 provided for them and provided for Circuit Courts as well.

The **first Circuit Court** was held in November of **1828,** and was presided over by the Honorable **William Woodbridge**. The Circuit Court developed in a way that reveals the source of the name. Judges assigned to this court would travel a 'circuit' and hold court in different communities on a regular basis. It was actually a traveling road show. Washtenaw County was originally part of a circuit that included Wayne County. Later it became part of a circuit that included Monroe and Jackson counties as well.

Antique stove in the Chelsea Guest House. Photo S. Wineberg

The first courthouse in Washtenaw County was built in 1834 on the site of the present Washtenaw County Courthouse. It was a very simple building, and was replaced in 1877 by a magnificent domed courthouse in the Renaissance Revival Style with statuary at each corner and a clock tower that was lighted at night. The current courthouse replaced this building in 1954. The latter was built around the old one, and on moving day they just handed files and furniture through the windows! When the move was completed, the old courthouse was demolished and replaced by the current parking lot. In 1954, the county was planning ahead and built two beautiful courtrooms for one circuit judge. They still exist and were until very recently known as Courtrooms 1 and 2. They were just renamed 8 and 9. Next time you visit the building, check them out. They are on the second floor and are mirror images of each other. They have lock up facilities for prisoners and witnesses and secure ways to get from the parking lots to the courtroom.

From 1954-1994 the building housed the County Clerk, the Register of Deeds, the County Treasurer, Board of Supervisors, Drain Commissioners Office etc. Currently we have 10 judges in the courtroom, one district court magistrate and three Friend of the Court referees. We have five (usually six) courthouses throughout the county. There's a courthouse in Ypsilanti township that is part of their civic center on Huron River Drive; there is a courthouse in downtown Ypsilanti which was formerly a Kroger store; there is a courthouse in an old seminary across from the jail on Hogback; and there is this building which used to be a bank. The juvenile facility is on Platt Road, and there was a court in the city of Saline, which is being used for something else, so a new courthouse is being built there.

The **District Court**, which is what we are in now, is a descendant of the concept of a Justice of the Peace and a Municipal Court. They were developed because of the volume of cases that were being filed after 1950. Many of our first district judges were former justices of the peace, including Judge Bronson and Judge Collins. We now have three district courts in Washtenaw County. The first district court is the 14A District Court which is this court, as is the one in the City of Ypsilanti and the jail. The jurisdiction of 14A is anything NOT in the city limits of Ann Arbor or the Township of Ypsilanti.

The 14B District Court is the court with jurisdiction over Ypsilanti Township and the 15th District Court, which is the bench I'm a member of, has jurisdiction over matters arising in the City of Ann Arbor. The revenues from the 14A District Court flow from and to the county. The revenues from and the money used to operate the 15th District Court comes from the City of Ann Arbor, and the 14B Court is supported by the Township of Ypsilanti.

District courts as a rule are a revenue-generating entity. Revenues from 14A supply monies for the rest of the court system. In our 15th District Court we take in $900,000 more each year than we cost to operate. This helps support other functions of the city so that taxes don't have to support these functions. There are approximately 18,000 cases filed every year in 15th District Court. I may be low on this.

Most of the cases that get filed are traffic tickets, and there are thousands of those written every year, and most of them get paid, so we don't see them in court. The rest of our docket is misdemeanor criminal and civil crimes. District Courts really are the people's courts and most people that appear in district court do not have an attorney. Most people that appear in circuit court DO have an attorney. The 14th District Court has three judges, Judge Cedric Simpson, Judge Richard Conlin who sits here, and Judge Kirk Tabbey who sits in Ypsilanti. 14 B's Judge is John Collins, recently re-elected to his fourth term. He is the first judge in Ypsilanti Township and this will be his last term because you are not allowed to run after you reach the age of 70.

We have five circuit judges in Washtenaw County—Judge David Swartz, Judge Tim Connors, Judge Archie Brown, Judge Don Shelton and Judge Melinda Morris. We have two probate judges—Judge Nancy Francis and Judge John Kirkendall. However, the court system in Michigan is undergoing change at the trial level.

About eight years ago, the Supreme Court of Michigan designated Washtenaw County as a **Trial Court Demonstration Project.** They wanted to try out some new ideas on how trial courts should function and they determined Washtenaw County would be a good candidate. The first experiment was to collapse all the distinctions between circuit, district and probate courts and equalize the differences in pay, office perks etc. The judges were divided into criminal, civil and family divisions. I was in practice at the time and I remember Judge Kirkendall, who was a Probate Judge, hearing a civil case that I was involved in, that involved a $15,000 cement driver. He was clearly not dealing with the guardianship, adoption, estate, and divorce stuff that he was used to doing. He was in the civil division and was assigned that case.

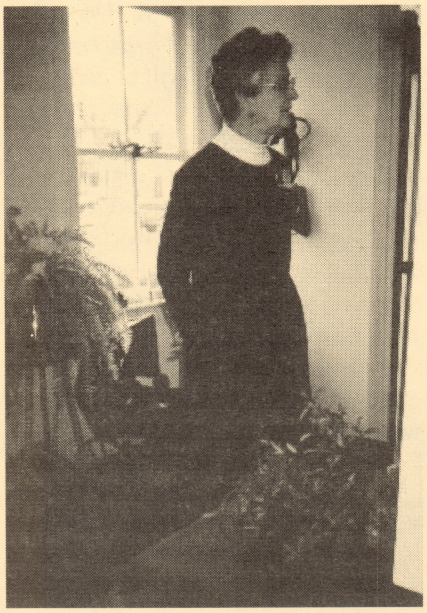
This experiment didn't work, mainly because of facility issues. It was too hard to have judges traveling the circuit again, even though it was smaller. Although all judges have the authority to hear all cases brought in Washtenaw County, they redesigned it so that we now have a **District Division,** a **Civil Division,** a **Criminal Division,** and a **Family Division.** Most of the judges in the county all belong to one, and often two, of these divisions. For example, I belong to the District Division and hear civil cases for the City of Ann Arbor, including all the drunk driving cases and all the traffic cases. But I also hear all the Personal Protection Order cases for the entire county. So I am a member of both the District Division and the Family Division. Judge Brown is in both the Family and Criminal Divisions. Judge Morris is in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions.

This actually works much better and it has resulted in enormous savings to the county taxpayers. In cases involving a felony, you formerly were arraigned in a criminal court. Then you would be taken to a district court in either Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township to have a preliminary exam, which is a hearing at which time the prosecutor must prove there is probable cause that the person committed the crime they are charged with. Once that determination was made, the case was then sent to a circuit court, where they would schedule their own arraignment and their own pre-trial, and you could have a plea to that charge or a reduced charge at the pre-trial. As part of the demonstration project, all of the district judges now hear the preliminary exams at the courtroom across from the jail, so members of the sheriff's department are not running all over the county every day with people in custody. This has saved us about $250,000 a year!

It has also saved on the time people spent in jail before they were either released (because they'd served their time) or sent to the Department of Corrections. We've reduced the length of in a felony criminal case by at least three weeks because the district judges are now empowered not only to conduct a preliminary exam and make the probable cause determination, but they can immediately arraign the defendant and take pleas. You have to have a probable cause hearing within 14 days. So it is possible now to get someone through the system in as short as 5-6 weeks. We can then free up beds at the jail to house more serious offenders, and also prevent jail overcrowding which can initiate an across-the-board release of jail inmates.

The driving force of the trial court demonstration project has been to develop those type of efficiencies, so people get their cases heard faster—divorce cases now are wrapped up within one year, for example. Civil cases, which sometimes could take up to three-four years, are now taking no more than one and a half to two years. We don't know where this is going to go in the future. There is legislation currently pending in Lansing to enable this kind of demonstration project to continue. But, frankly, there are judges in other parts of the state that don't like the fact that we've been successful, because they tend to be more committed to the titles of Circuit and District and they don't want they don't want a District Court Judge hearing Circuit Court cases. We found that in this county, however, we have a terrific bench and we all work very well together and enjoy working together." [A question and answer session followed the prepared remarks].

Your Musem



Ann DeFreytas was a docent during our Holiday Exhibit. Photo: S. Wineberg

Continued from page 1.

poinsettia and **Bob Preiskorn** helped with the dollhouses too. Docents who served were **Ann DeFreytas, Rosemarion Blake, Ralph Beebe, Jay Snyder, Karen O'Neal, Judy Chrisman** and **Pauline Walters.**

Despite all the preparations for the Holiday Exhibit, **Collections Chair Judy Chrisman** found time to sort through our vast clothing collections and weed out items that are too damaged to display or are duplicates. Judy continues to love our new shelving system, although the amount of workspace has been diminished somewhat. She is slowly making headway with a backlog of items!

Frederick F. O'Neal built this dollhouse for his grandchildren. It was loaned by Karen O'Neal. Photo: S. Wineberg

The rear portion of the Museum has been insulated and the accordion-lath siding has been covered from top to bottom with **Plexiglas.** It can now be functioning office space and Pauline has already moved in new filing cabinets and desks (see photo). **Chezarae Rose** continues to help us organize our files.

A child's cutter, crafted by Adolph Gustave Schmidt c. 1888, was recently donated to WCHS by his granddaughter, Amelita Ristine. Photo: S. Wineberg

We have also gotten **Roberston-Morrison** Heating to finish setting up our furnace for the **zone system,** so that we can be warm and toasty on all three floors. This will cost us about $1100 and should be done this month.

Our **membership campaign** is going very well Treasurer **Patty Creal** reports we've had more renewals than usual by this time of year. Thank you all for renewing your membership! We cannot run without the support of the community. **Jay Snyder** reported that our **Endowment Fund** now has a total of $8,000 invested in two mutual funds. We have seen a loss in the value of our portfolio, as has everyone else with money in mutual funds. However, we have some generous donors out there and we recently received a very generous donation from a donor who wishes to remain **anonymous**. We also received $2,500 from the **Theophil and Amanda Aprill Foundation.**

The **Bach Estate Fund** continues to make us money despite the weak economy. With that in mind, a committee continues to meet to devise a job description for a **part-time museum director**. This job would entail managing the museum and the exhibits, promoting the educational mission of the society, and developing relationships with the schools to view our exhibits and learn about county history. This Director would report to the Board and would work under the supervision of the President. We will keep you posted.

New Exhibit Opened February 1

The WCHS is proud to focus on two more townships in the county. **Northfield** and **Pittsfield Townships** have gotten together to tell us ***"Tales of Two Townships."*** **Wystan Stevens** and **Rusty Towers** (from Northfield) and **Betty LeClair, Marcia Ticknor** and **Helen Richards** (from Pittsfield) have prepared this exhibit that focuses on the history of these two townships. The exhibit opens officially **February 1** and **Open Houses** will be held the weekend **of February 8** and **9**, from noon-4 PM. The exhibit will be up until the end of April. For more details call the museum at **734-662-9092.**

Support For The *Impressions*

This issue of the *Impressions* is supported in full by Mr. and Mrs. Rheo C. Marchand honoring the birthday of Pauline V. Walters.

Future Programs

Our Sunday programs cover a fascinating array of topics in unusual locations. We hope you will join us the third Sunday of every month, from 2-4 PM. All programs are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are usually served. Members receive a post card every month with more details and maps of how to reach the meeting.

SUNDAY • MARCH 16 • 2 PM
YPSILANTI FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM, 110 W. CROSS ST.

Marcia McCrary, President of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County and Curator of the Fire Museum, will speak on the history of the Museum and its brand new addition.

SUNDAY • APRIL 27 • 2 PM
ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
300 N. DIVISION, ANN ARBOR
(Please note this is the fourth Sunday)

As part of the continuation of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Andrew's, **Louisa Pieper** and **Grace Shackman** will give **walking tours** of the Old Fourth Ward Historic District surrounding the church. Docents will be giving guided tours of the church. ***The Windows of St. Andrew's,*** a book on the history of the church's windows, will be available for sale. Light refreshments will be served at 4 PM.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 21 • 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING
COBBLESTONE FARM
2781 PACKARD RD.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held at the **Cobblestone Farm** Barn and will consist of our usual yummy potluck plus a guided tour of the 1844 Cobblestone House and outbuildings.

Around The Town

The following lectures have been announced for the **Detroit Observatory.** On **Tuesday, February 18,** 7–9:30 PM, **Marsha Ackermann,** will speak on ***"Michigan's Weather Man: The Triumphs and Tragedy of Mark Walrod Harrington."*** Mark W. Harrington (1848-1926), the third director of the UM Detroit Observatory, became the inaugural director of the U.S. Weather Bureau in 1891. In later years, his physical and mental health deteriorated, and he died in a mental institution. Dr. Ackermann highlights Harrington's weather expertise, and connects his meteorological investigations to the ways we think about weather and weather forecasting today. On **Tuesday, March 11, 2003,** 3–5 PM, **David A. Bloom, M.D.** will speak on ***Barometers and Bladders: A Primer on Pressure.*** Dr. Bloom will explore the concept of pressure as a physical phenomenon, and its relevance in biology and medicine. On **Tuesday, April 1, 3–5 p.m., Leonard A. Walle** will lecture on ***"Chasing The Light: 19th Century Astronomical Photography and Its Pioneers."*** Early photography was used to capture and document eclipses, comets, meteorites and the moon as well as astronomers, their telescopes, observatories and expeditions. Through images from a collection assembled over the past 30 years, Dr. Walle recounts this history and his own adventures in collecting and researching astronomical photographs.

All lectures are in the main lecture room at **1398 E. Ann St** and are limited to the first 40 people. The lectures are free and open to the public. Visit them at their website at **www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu.** or call **734-763-2230** to find the dates of their twice monthly Open Houses. The Observatory is a restored 1854 Italianate building and the only observatory in the U.S. with its original instruments in place. In **2004** the Observatory will be celebrating its **Sesquicentennial** and is seeking donations to display museum banners on light poles. Also in celebration of this event, the December 2003 issue of the *Journal of Astronomical History and Heritage* will be dedicated to the Detroit Observatory. Congratulations in advance!

Cobblestone Farm said goodbye to **Ed Rice**, their former Interpretive Assistant to the Farm, at a reception held in October. Ed is now teaching at Macomb Community College. On **Friday, February 7** from 6-9 PM, a **Winter Evening** from the past can be experienced. All ages can escape the wintry weather and experience a typical evening at the farmstead, when courting and quilting were common. On **Saturday, February 8** they continue their Workshop Series with a ***"Hands-on approach to Preservation Techniques."*** On **Friday, February 14,** Cobblestone will host a **Father/Daughter Valentine's Day Dance**. A buffet dinner will be served in the Cupid Café and an instructor will be on hand to coach in basic ballroom dancing. Residents pay $25.00/person or $40.00/couple. On **Saturday, March 8**, from 10-12 the workshop will be on ***"Tools of the Trade."*** On **Friday, March 21**, Moms get their turn with the **Mother/Son Hoe Down.** This time there will be a caller for square dancing, along with a buffet dinner. All events require pre-registration and have fees. Call **734-994-2928** to register. The farm, a restored 1844 Cobblestone Building owned by the City of Ann Arbor, is located at **2781 Packard Road.** Call **734-971-8789** for details about hours of operation or setting up an appointment for preschool group tours aimed at 3-5 year olds.

Kempf House will begin its **Wednesday Noon Lecture Series** on **March 5**, with a talk by **April Beisaw** on ***"Recovering History Through Archaeology."*** On **March 12, John Harrington** will speak on ***"The Printing Industry: Then and Now"*** and on **March 19, Dr. Kathryn Bishop Eckert** will lecture on the ***"Life of Mary Chase Perry Stratton,"*** the founder of **Pewabic Pottery**. On **March 26, Nancy Lautenbach** will talk about

"Hats—Wearable Art", on **April 2, Diane Wynings** will speak on "***Historic Wall Treatment and How to Adapt it to Today's Homes***" and on **April 9, Kathryn Beam** of the UM Hatcher Library will lecture on *"**Children's Books in the Special Collections Library.**"* The last two lectures will be **April 16,** when **Kathryn Howard** will speak on the "***The Victorian House Museum in Ypsilanti***" and on **April 23** they end with **Ara Berberian** recounting his "***Life as a lawyer and Metropolitan Opera Singer.***" For more details call **734-994-4898.**

Kempf House will also be holding special events this spring and summer in honor of the **Sesquicentennial** of their Greek Revival building. An excavation to find the privy will be conducted by April Beisaw in the spring and artifacts discovered will be displayed during the month of September. A special exhibit on "***The Bennetts and their Greek Revival House***" will be mounted from **May 4-June 3.** Learn about our special connection with Pasadena, California through the Bennett family, as well as why the former Secretary of the University of Michigan chose the Greek Revival Style.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** meets **Sunday, February 23 at 1:30 PM and** the speaker will be **President Marcia McCrary** who will lecture on "***Finding Your Lumbering Ancestors in Michigan.***" The class will be taught by **Sharon Brevoort** on ***"Planning Your Research Trip."*** The meetings are held at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center (use Parking Lot P), which is located just east of Huron River Drive and Clark Road. You can visit their website at **www.hvcn.org/info/gscw** for more details. Questions? Call the President at **734-483-2799** or **Mary Lou Barry, 734-769-5452.**

The **Nichols Arboretum** has several events and talks planned through May. On **Thursday, March 13,** they hold their Annual Meeting from 6-7 PM at the **Reader Center** followed by a lecture by **Dr. Howard Frumkin** entitled "***White Coat, Green World: Human Health and the Natural Environment***" which will be held at 7:30 at the School of Public Health. A workshop on '***Sensitive Slope Repair and Streambank Protection***" will be held **April 12th** from 9-5 and on **May 1** and **8** listen to the "***Sounds of the Arb,***" representing over a year's work. **May 4th** is the **Annual Birdathon** and **May 22, Tammy Orlow** will talk about the "***Restoration of the School Girl's Glen and the Clean Water Trail.***" To learn more, visit their website at **www.umich.edu/wwwarb.** Or call **734-998-9540.**

Around Washtenaw

The students in **the EMU Preservation Program** have three lectures planned for this term. On **Friday, February 21** at 8 PM in King Lounge on campus, **Barbara Krueger** will speak about **Stained Glass Preservation.** Ms. Krueger works with the Michigan Stained Glass survey and is also a glass artist. The event is free and open to the public and will have light desserts as well. On **Saturday, March 22,** a tentative tour of the **Piquette Plant** in Detroit, Ford's first factory, is planned. And on **Saturday, April 5**, a tour of **historic Fort Wayne** is planned for the day. For more information, contact **Lisa Jacobs** at **JacobsLD1@online.emich.edu.** or telephone **734-487-0218.** Jacobs is also the co-author with **Dan Le Blond** of *A Walking Tour of Eastern Michigan University*. You can learn more by visiting EMU's website at **www.gradord.emich.edu.**

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission has just published a new brochure stating their mission and functions and highlighting their seven historic districts. You can find out more by calling **Marnie Paulus** at **734-222-6878** or visiting their website at **www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning.**

The **Saline Area Historical Society** Spring Education Series will focus on **archaeology.** On **Wednesday, February 19**, at 7:30 PM, local archaeologist **Ed Krasny** will speak on "***Salt, Geology and the Saline Salt Springs.***" This will take place at the Saline RR Depot, 402 N. Ann Arbor St.. Admission is free and light refreshments are served. **John Farmer** will share his experiences on "***Working with the Michigan Archaeological Society***" on **Wednesday, March 19** and **April Beisaw** will speak on **Wednesday, April 16** on ***"Excavation at the Blaess School in Lodi Twp".*** For additional information call **Agnes Dikeman** at **734-769-2219.**

An article in the *Ann Arbor News* of December 12, 2002, discussed the proposed **historic district in Saline** which would cover a four-block strip of North Ann Arbor Street and add 95 buildings to the two smaller districts already on the books. A public hearing will be held sometime in February and a final report is planned for May. This will be presented to the Saline City Council, which must approve it for it to become law. Owner-occupied houses in designated historic districts now qualify for **state tax credits,** which have been in effect since 2000. This can result in a 25% savings and be a substantial boon to many owners of historic houses.

The **30th Annual Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair** will be held at Creekside Elementary School (former high school) on **Saturday March 15,** from 10-4. More than 50 juried artists demonstrate and sell traditional crafts. Musical entertainment, stories for children, lace making demonstrations, a bake sale and the like will keep you busy all day! Admission is $3.00 for adults and 50 cents for children. All proceeds are used to support the **Dexter Historical Society.** The school is located at 2615 Baker Rd. in Dexter. For updated information, check their website at **www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum.**

The first purchase under the **Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program** was announced in the *Ann Arbor News* on January 19th. The County has agreed to pay $1.37 million to **Edmond DeVine** for 137 acres of wetlands and uncut woods in **Scio Township** on Liberty Road, just west of Zeeb. DeVine has owned the property since 1973, when he purchased it from **Edwin Rauschenberg,** the father of **Shirley Lowell**, a great great granddaughter of the

Stollsteimers who immigrated to Scio in 1830 and began farming this land. The remaining 80 acres and farmhouse will remain DeVine's. The land, through which Honey Creek flows, is home to sandhill cranes, deer, coyotes and a 350-year old oak. WCHS Board Member and Superintendent of Park Planning **Tom Freeman** was photographed as a tree hugger! The National Areas Preservation Program was passed by voters in 2000 and allows the county to use a new property tax of 0.25 mills for the purchase of areas with unique natural features. According to the *Ann Arbor News* of January 15, 2003, two other properties—180-acres in **Freedom Township** and 64 acres in **Superior Township,** will be finalized in the coming months. The purchase price for the Scio land is about half the current market rate.

The *Washtenaw Land Trust Journal* reports that WLT has won a federal grant for probably $250,000 to preserve 74 acres of prime farmland in **Freedom Township** owned by **Carolyn Strieter** on **South Parker Road**. The agreement allows her to remain on her farm, which was one of six Michigan farms to qualify for the competitive federal grant program. Strieter was very emotional and was overjoyed that the land is being saved from development.

The *Journal* also reported the acquisition of a 13.5-acre site on **West Joy Rd.,** between **Jennings** and **North Delhi Roads** with a rolling oak-hickory forest. This was made possible through the generosity of a local donor who wishes to remain anonymous. This brings the total of acres protected now to 1,500. To learn more about the Trust, contact them at **734-302-5263** or visit their website at **www.washtenawlandtrust.org.**

The folks of the **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** have many programs in the works. On **Sunday February 9** at 2 PM, **April Beisaw** will speak on ***"Recovering Pittsfield's History through Archaeology."*** On **Sunday, March 9, Maxine Henderson** will lecture on ***"Bread Baking in the 1800s."*** On **Sunday, April 13, Emily Salvette** will do an ***"Oral History Interview"*** (she conducted an Oral History interview of **Walt Gutekunst** and **Carl Thayer** on January 12th, too late for us to inform you) and on **Sunday May 18th** a field trip (destination to be announced later) to somewhere exciting! They have a wonderful **website** managed by **Ed Wall,** who is helping us to create ours! You can visit it at **www.pittsfieldhistory.org.**

The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** has announced its lecture series for the year. Unfortunately, we were too late to tell you about **Scott Kunst** speaking to them on January 22. But on **Wednesday, March 26,** you can listen to Ann Arbor architects **Mitchell and Mouat** talk about the restoration of the **First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti.** On **May 28** the Foundation holds its **Awards Banquet** and **August 17** is the date of the **Historic Home Tour** in conjunction with the **Heritage Festival** (for those of you who really like to plan ahead). You can nominate a home or building for an award. See their website at **www.yhf.org** or email Dan Randazzo at **drandazzo@ provide.net.** Nominations are due before March 31.

Having missed the Kunst lecture I decided to visit his website to see if we could catch him somewhere else in the area. Voila! Scott will be lecturing on ***"Heirloom Bulbs: Four Seasons, Forty Centuries"*** at the **Chelsea Depot,** 125 Jackson Street, on **Monday, March 17** at 7:30 PM. For more information call **Cindy** at **734-475-8891**. Or visit the **Old House Gardens** website at **www.oldhousegardens.com.** This business is another homegrown treasure that is making it big on a national scale (not quite like Zingerman's or Borders, but big!)

Beyond Washtenaw

Get ready for the **Michigan Historic Preservation Network's 23rd Annual Conference** in **Kalamazoo,** to be held **April 24-26, 2003**. The topic is ***"The Politics of Preservation—Preservation and Public Policy"*** and for 3 ½ days they will review federal, state and local policy and how you can help shape future preservation policy. Keynoters include **Richard Roddewig,** principal of Clarion Associates which recently conducted an Economic Impact Survey for the MHPN and Dr. **William Anderson,** Director of the State Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Also returning this year is their now famous 'hands on' component with the Construction Trades Council. For more details email ***mphn@voyager.net*** or phone **517-371-8080.**

If you subscribe to their excellent newsletter you would know that since 1971, preservation has had a $1.7 billion impact on Michigan's economy, generating more than 20,000 jobs and $53 million in state taxes. You would also learn that **Nancy Finegood** has been appointed the executive director as of November. Finegood is a CPA and formerly the executive director of St. Croix Landmarks Society in the Virgin Islands. She's a native Michigander, so maybe the transition back to cold weather won't be so hard! You would also learn about the archaeological excavations in Cass County unearthing the remains of the Underground Railroad; the federal funds available through MDOT for historic roadways or transportation-related sites; and that the **BARN AGAIN!** Program won $1,000 award from the **National Trust for Historic Preservation,** with six $250 awards presented as well. Barns in **Olivet** and **Charlotte** were selected for recognition. To join, visit their website at **www.mhpn.org.** And if you like to really plan ahead, we'll tell you that six sites around Michigan (**Morenci** in Lenawee County; **Standish** in Arenac County, **Sidney** in Montcalm County, **Munising** in the UP; **Port Oneida Rural Historic District** in Leelanau County and **Novi** in Oakland County) will be featured in the **Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit (SITES) on** barns in 2004!

Speaking of barns, the **Michigan Barn Preservation Network** is still going strong. The **8th Annual Conference** will be held **March 8, 2003,** at the Kellogg Center in Lansing from 9-4:30. You can always reach them through **Steve Stier** at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 or by visiting their website at **www.museum.cl.msu/mbpn.**

Speaking of barn preservation, the *Detroit Free Press* ran a nice article November 29, 2002 highlighting the **Barn Savers Calendar** that is being distributed by **David Ciolek,** whose business is restoration or moving barns. You can find out more at **www.barnpreservation.org.** And even more impressive, *USA Today* ran a story on barn preservation on December 4, 2002, which featured a photograph of our own **Marshall**

McLennan. We are on the barn preservation map!

The **Michigan Stained Glass Census Project** has opportunities for student internships. Over 1000 buildings in Michigan have registered their stained glass, but not all the reports are complete. Interns would help complete the work by doing fieldwork, scanning photos and entering data in to the computer. The home base is the MSU Museum. Visit **http://museum.msu.edu** or e-mail **Barbara Krueger** at *BEK4450@aol.com.*

The MSU Museum also has an exhibit on **Jews in Michigan** entitled ***"Uneasy Years."*** It will be up **through June 2003** and is partially funded by the Michigan Humanities Council. In conjunction with this exhibit is a traveling exhibit on **Varian Fry** from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Fry led an underground effort in Vichy, France to help more than 1,200 people escape from the Nazis. **Pierre Sauvage** will lecture there **April 10-11**. For more information contact Judy at **517-353-2243** or visit their website.

The **Plymouth Historical Museum** will host a special weekend celebration for Lincoln's Birthday on **Saturday** and **Sunday, February 15** and **16,** from 1-5 called ***"Link up with Lincoln."*** The event is free for kids and they will have a chance to meet Abe, talk with Civil War reenactors, dress in period clothing, receive special tours of the Lincoln Exhibit, find out how to be a Civil War Spy and much more!! Call **734-455-8940** or visit their website at **www.plymouth.lib.mi.us.** The Museum is located at 155 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

Looking even further east, there will be a **One-Room Schoolhouse** event on **Saturday, February 22** at the **1848 Stoney Creek School** at the intersection of Tienken and Washington Roads in **Rochester Hills.** A month later, on **Saturday March 22,** a **Historic Road Rally** will be held through some of Rochester and Rochester Hills' historic locations. Call **248-656-4663** for more information. The Rochester Hills Museum is located at 1005 Van Hoosen Road.

And finally, after countless hours of planning and proofreading, the book about **Perry Hayden's Dynamic Kernels,** entitled ***God is My Landlord,*** is in print. The print recounts Hayden's experiments with soybeans in the 1940s. You can buy it at the **Tecumseh Area Museum**, which you can find through **www.historictecumseh.com,** or by calling **517-423-2374.**

News You Can Use

Always dreamed of being an archaeologist? **Passport in Time (PIT)** is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the USDA Forest Service. They invite you to work with professionals on projects including excavations, rock art restoration, archival research, oral histories and writing interpretive brochures. Although there is no compensation for your work, you can spend you vacation doing something exciting and educational! Also, the time you donate can count as a tax deduction. To find out more, visit their website at **www.passportintime.com.**

Home and Garden TV (HGTV) will be showing a program called ***"Restore America—A Salute to Preservation"*** to raise awareness of our country's most treasured historic places. This is a public affairs initiative done in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. HGTV will also donate $1 million toward restoring the 12 properties highlighted. The programs will be announced in July so plan ahead!

You might not believe it, but there is an organization devoted to preserving the buildings from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s! It is the **Recent Past Preservation Network (RPPN)** and they have an exciting website and Listserve for members. They care about all buildings and objects, from a high style house built by a renowned architect, to a ketchup bottle sign from 1949. Contact them by writing **PO Box 1674, Arlington, VA 22210** or visit their website at **www.recentpast.org.**

Another similar organization is the **Society for Commercial Archaeology.** This group celebrates the entire 20th century and works to preserve and document diners, highways, gas stations, drive-in theaters, bus stations, tourist courts, neon signs and a lot more. You can join by writing to them c/o **Dept of Popular Culture, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403** or by visiting their website at **www.scaroadside.org.**

Way Back When

Ralph Beebe kindly donated this photograph to me of the **Philip and Anna Botsford Bach** home in the 1930s which stood on Main Street at Packard **(424 S. Main)** where the Ashley Mews is today. The Greek Revival house, built sometime in the 1840s or early 1850s, was 'modernized' by Bach when he purchased it from **Mrs. Becker** in 1864 and added "a Piazza across the front" (quoted in a letter written May 5, 1864 by **Elizabeth DuBois** to **Mrs. Andrew Dickson White**. The originals of the letters are in the papers of President White at Cornell according to **Russell Bidlack**). Bach was in the dry goods business and built 126 S. Main in 1864. He came to Ann Arbor in 1835 from Germany and worked in the dry goods trade with various men before striking out on his own. In 1860, he lived on Division Street between Liberty and William but by 1864 he had enough money to buy this showplace with 14 rooms. Before he could afford this home, however, he'd served as Mayor of Ann Arbor (1858), been on the School Board and worked as a Vice President of the First National Bank. **Anna Botsford Bach** was his third wife and she too was active in local affairs, organizing the local chapter of the DAR and helping set up the first Old Ladies Home (now named after her). Their daughter, **Ellen Botsford Bach**, sold the home to the Staebler Oil Co. in 1930 and it was first converted to a gasoline station and eventually demolished. Ellen's only niece, **Doris Anna Bach**, who died in 2001, willed us half her estate. This was a family tradition, as much of our fabulous clothing and furniture collection came to us from the Bach family in the last century.

University Doings

Julie Truettner, UM historian and part of the Planning Staff relayed the followed information to us: **The Regents' Proceedings** - from 1837 through 1998 - have been scanned and are **on-line.** You no longer have to rely on searching the index or slogging to the library to copy a few pages, but can now search entire text for a word, phrase, name, etc., and print out exact copy of the pages. The direct link to the search page is below. **http://www.umich.edu/~regents/regntweb.html** or **www.hti.umich.edu/u/umregnproc/.**

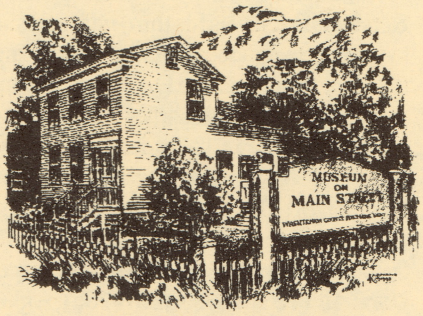
Julie has also been busy with the many projects going on at the University through her position at the University Planner's Office. She documented the interior of the President's House before Mary Sue Coleman moved in and discovered some interesting openings that were blocked up 100 years ago. University Planner **Fred Mayer** retired this month and the new planner is **Sue Gott,** a native of Ann Arbor, who formerly worked with the SmithGroup-JJR. Julie was also instrumental in aiding the folks at **Matthaei Botanical Gardens** in their effort to preserve the house built by **Epaphras Matteson** in 1824 and the associated barns dating from the 1860s and 1880s. A nice article on this project appeared in the December 3, 2002 issue of the ***Ann Arbor News.*** This farm is part of the Gardens and is located on Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor Township.

Website Work

Ed Wall of **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** is working with President **Pauline Walters** in developing a website for WCHS. We will be buying our domain name [washtenawhistory.org] for 10 years and then focusing on writing a brief history of Washtenaw County and featuring some of our past programs and current exhibits. Mr. Wall manages the Pittsfield website and that will be our model. We are moving ahead!

Boulder On Michigan Avenue (US-12)

Sue Kosky has informed us that members of the US-12 Historic District Study Committee are trying to find the historic boulders that once marked this road. Here is one from Ypsilanti. If you know of any more, give us a call!



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